

## Praying With Children – Advent 2009

### SURRENDER

Take time during classes this season to teach the children about surrendering to God in prayer all the “stuff” they may be hanging onto that prevents them from receiving the good things that God has for them!

Words like TRUST, SURRENDER, FOLLOWING, and FAITH can take on a whole new meaning for a child.

#### **Activity:**

Bring in 2 large plastic drinking glasses and a pitcher of water. Ask a volunteer to hold out their hands with palms facing up. Rest a glass on the flat surface of each hand and then fill them with water. Tell the child to balance carefully so that they don't spill. Now show the child a bag of candy or some other treat to share with the class. Tell the child that they can have the candy to share with the class if they will just come and get it from you and pass it out. They will not be able to set the glasses down or receive the candy, because their hands are full. Explain that this is how we are with God sometimes. God wants to give us something good, but we are holding on too tightly to something else to be able to receive it.

Tell the child if they want the candy, they can ask you to help them to get rid of the water glasses. When they ask, take both of the glasses from the child and give them the candy to distribute. Make sure everyone understands the connection that God will help us surrender things that are blocking us from receiving God's healing love. We need to give our worry over to the Jesus and trust in Him. Give examples of possible worries...to help lead the children.... My grandma's health, my marks on my report card etc., we can hand these all over to the Lord in our prayers. Just talk to the Jesus....He is always listening! He will love you and guide you!

#### **Craft Idea: Surrender Boxes**

A small box, margarine or cottage cheese plastic tub for each child. Have the child cover the bottom and lid separately with wrapping paper. They can decorate them with glitter, stickers, markers. The children can decorate their containers with the name of Jesus, or design a cross for the lid. However they interpret it, it should be something that reminds them that they are surrendering to Jesus whatever they put into their boxes. This activity is to be done in silence...allowing this all to be done in quiet conversation with God.

Through Advent the children can write their worries and concerns on strips of paper and place them inside their private prayer boxes. Each week mention “surrendering to God” in your opening prayers. “Letting go of things and trusting God to lead us”.

\* The Sunday before Christmas have each child place their box under the Christmas Tree in the church, during the final hymn of the service. (If some children are away...make sure all the children see that all the boxes were placed under the tree.)

\* The boxes must magically disappear before the Christmas Eve service -- to surrender is to remove...hopefully forever. (dismantle each box for recycling in a private space where the children will not know.....reminding them....that through their Christmas preparation...they surrendered to God in their lives. Allowing them space to receive Jesus into their hearts this Christmas ! “Letting go...Letting God !”